THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Because of lower procurement of wheat and rice than their requirement under TPDS, welfare schemes and for calamity relief etc., the buffer stock of wheat and rice available in the Central Pool on 01.01.2008 has been less than the minimum buffer norms. Therefore, available stocks for allocation to APL category during 2008-09 are less, although for the accepted numbers of BPL and AAY families under the TPDS, the stocks likely to become available in the Central Pool would enable full allocation @ 35 kg/per family/per month.

Allocation of rice to Kerala

1593. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reduced the quantity of rice allocated to Kerala, through public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for enhancing the rice allocation to Kerala; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A uniform decision to rationalize rice allocation from the Central Pool stocks for the APL category under the Targeted Public Distribution System has been implemented *w.e.f* April 2007 on the basis of a particular State's maximum monthly offtake during last three years *i.e* 2003-04; 2004-05 and 2005-06. This has been made applicable to all States, including Kerala.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government has made an *adhoc*/additional/festival of allocation of 51,000 MT of rice and 83,778 MT of wheat to State of Kerala during the current year in addition to normal allocations made under the TPDS.

Irregularities in supply of ration

†1594. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints regarding irregularities in the supply of ration especially in supply of wheat and rice given to BPL in the different States of the country including Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether investigation has been conducted against the guilty officers; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received from individuals and organizations, as well as through press reports about irregularities and diversion of PDS commodities. All the complaints have been sent to concerned State and UT Governments for inquiry and action as per law.

Details of complaints received from individuals and organizations, and through Press reports during last three years including Haryana are as under:—

2005		2006		2007	
Complaints	Press Reports	Complaints	Press Reports	Complaints	Press Reports
5		20	11	33	24
5		31		57	

(c) and (d) For monitoring supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, the Central Government has issued Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001. As provided under it, the State and UT governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Details of action taken by the State and UT government during last two years are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details regarding results of action taken by the State/UT Governments under Clauses 8 *& 9 of the PDS (Control) Order,* 2001 *from January,* 2006 *to December,* 2007

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Year	Number of raids conducted	Number of persons arrested/ Prosecuted/ convicted	Number of FPS Licenses suspended/Cancelled/ Show cause notices issued/ FIR lodged
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	2006	3978	41	90
		2007	*	*	*
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2006	37	00	139
		2007		00	39
3	Assam	2006	309	24	22
		2007	*	*	*
4	Bihar	2006	138	1	1721
		2007			
5	Chhattisgarh	2006	1370	14	1076
		2007	229	51	549
6	Delhi	2006	62	46	321
		2007	94	72	248

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Goa	2006	05	00	00
		2007	00	00	00
8	Gujarat	2006	10	225	82
		2007	01	186	86
9	Haryana	2006	491	12	2934
		2007	342	18	1367
10	Himachal Pradesh	2006	—	5	1339
		2007	—	3	908
11	J & K	1.01.06 to 31.03.07	1390	228	255
12	Jharkhand	2006	*	*	*
		2007	*	*	2777
13	Karnataka	2006	23	13	15
		2007	*	*	*
14	Kerala	2006	21534	1	185
		2007	8111	5	516
15	Maharashtra	2006	557	1449	*
		2007	*	*	*
16	Manipur	2006	1	*	*
		2007	*	*	*
17	Meghalaya	2006	208	7	66
		2007	60	7	29
18	Mizoram	2006	14	00	00
		2007	*	*	*
19	Nagaland	2006	11	00	00
		2007	*	*	*
20	Orissa	2006	1442	75	1488
		2007	3672	120	1648
21	Rajasthan	2006	907	211	07
		2007	196	68	00
22	Tamil Nadu	2006	*	*	*
		2007	*11584*	*854*	*
23	Tripura	2006	79	04	210
		2007	42	01	79
24	Uttarakhand	2006	16979	30	264
		2007	9788	29	104
25	Uttar Pradesh	2006	12589	1303	13887
		2007	24446	2568	13264
26	West Bengal	2006	417	229	501
		2007	342	153	123
27	A&N Islands	2006	*	*	25
		2007	*	*	*

1	2	3	4	5	6
28	Chandigarh	2006	1	3	69
		2007	*	*	07
29	D&N Haveli	2006	*	*	02
		2007	*	*	*
30	Pondicherry	2006	113	23	10
		2007	423	38	00
	TOTAL	2006	74249	4798	24708
		2007	59330	4173	21744
	GRAND TOTAL =2006+2007		133579	8971	46252

* Information not received.

Self Help Groups as PDS franchises

1595. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) as PDS system has been grossly abused and intended beneficiaries are deprived of this higly subsidized mechanism, whether Government would examine to use SHGs as PDS franchises as is being done in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether a time-bound study group will be constituted for this purpose so that it could in-depth examine how the 500 SHGs successfully retail PDS commodities serving over 2,15,000 households in Tamil Nadu and 5600 SHGs involved in retailing kerosene in Orissa; and

(c) whether a pilot project would be undertaken in a few select intially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibility for identification of eligible BPL and AAY familes within the respective number of BPL households estimated by the Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, allocation of foodgrains within the State/UT and proper distribution of allocated TPDS foodgrains to eligible families through fair price shops rests with State/UT Governments.

In consultation with State and UT Governments, it was decided that licenses for Fair Price Shop (FPS) could be issued on priority to cooperatives of women and Ex-servicemen. Accordingly State and UT Governments have been requested to take action.

State and UT Government have again been advised to allot FPS to Women's Self Help Groups (SHGs), cooperatives, Villages Panchayats and Urban local bodies, by withdrawing them from private persons, as has been done in Chhattisgarh and Orissa.